

## **May 2011 Overview**

### **Kings Canyon Backcountry Trail Crew**

#### **David Villarino: Supervisor**

This month we were introduced to our new home for the next 5 ½ months, here in Kings canyon, by its park staff and trail workers. Without delay our crew was given specific instruction to prepare us for a safe and successful Backcountry Trails season. Thanks to the park Trails Foreman David Karplus we were fortunate to attend his eight hour class on ergonomics with regard to trail work. Coupled with this valuable training the crew also attended Karplus' 16 hour introduction to rock work to ensure our crew was given the best chance to remain healthy and productive throughout the season. Tying it all together, an eight hour course certifying us in Wilderness First Aid and CPR was provided. Soon after our week of training we were given the opportunity to put our skills to practice on the trail and to adjust to the daily routine in our new home. Each of us learned quickly just how much time and energy is required to maintain a community of 20 as well as remaining prepared for the wilderness and the work. Also adjusting in these crucial first weeks were our bodies to the physical demand of the hiking and the work of trail construction in the High Sierra.

The curriculum for the month of May included the education necessary to navigate both our new home in Kings Canyon and our budding new community. Classes included readings from "A Different Drum" by M. Scott Peck and "The Last Season" by Eric Baum. Initially we focused on our crew Mission Statement and how to properly detail our experiences in our journals. Map reading and Orienteering were taught to prepare the crew for weekend exploring.

We regret to report that a season ending injury was sustained by our dear friend Aric Anderson. Thank you for the time we shared with you.